

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 113 371 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
04.07.2001 Bulletin 2001/27

(51) Int Cl. 7: G06F 17/30

(21) Application number: 00311272.9

(22) Date of filing: 15.12.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

• Lee, Jin Soo
Songpa-gu, Seoul (KR)
• Jun, Sung Bae
Kumchon-gu, Seoul (KR)

(30) Priority: 30.12.1999 KR 9965853

(74) Representative:
McLeish, Nicholas Alistair Maxwell et al
Boulton Wade Tenant
Verulam Gardens
70 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8BT (GB)

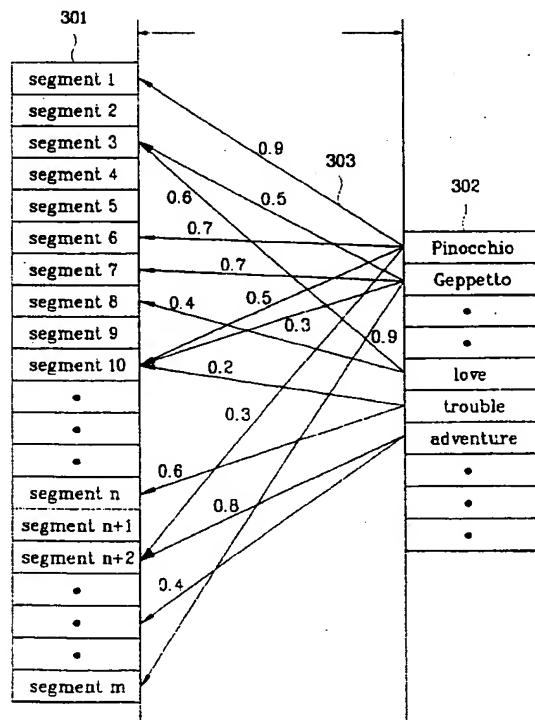
(72) Inventors:

- Yoon, Kyoung Ro
Kangnam-gu, Seoul (KR)

(54) Multimedia structure and method for browsing multimedia with defined priority of multimedia segments and semantic elements

(57) A more efficient data structure and method for browsing a multimedia is disclosed. In the present invention, link information between segments and semantic elements of a multimedia data structure is generated with minimal use of storage. Also, priority or weight of segments is represented based on semantic elements and priority or weight of semantic elements is represented based on segments to allow a search of multimedia based on content. The priority or weight information is represented as an attribute of the link information to increase the efficiency of the storage and a method of automatically extracting the priority or weight information is disclosed.

FIG.3



Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates to a multimedia browser, and more particularly to a structure and method for browsing the multimedia with defined priorities and/or weights of multimedia data segments and semantic elements.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Contents of a multimedia program are typically divided into a structural content and a semantic content.

[0003] The structural content represents how a multimedia program is physically and logically organized. For example, for a news program, a structural content may be organized by an initial title portion, a headline news portion, and a main news portion including news items. For a drama or a movie, a structural content may be organized according to video sections of the drama or movie story as developed with respect to time. Here, the headline news portion of a news program deals with a plurality of news items and may be further divided into sections corresponding to each news item. Similarly, the main news portion may further be divided into sections corresponding to news items and each news item may be divided into anchor shots and reporter shots.

[0004] As described above, division of a multimedia program into several portions is called segmentation and the divided portions are called segments. That is, the structural content is generally described with segments. In the above example, if the news program is logically divided, the news program would have a tree structure representing an example of the structural content.

[0005] Fig. 1 shows an example structure information of an audio/video stream. As shown in Fig. 1, the audio/video stream may be represented by a group of scene segments, and the scene segments may be described with a tree structure of shot segments. The structure information of segments is not fixed to a single structure but can have various other structure according to different viewpoints or criteria for the segmentation. Namely, different segments would result from segmentation with reference to audio information, visual information, or logical information. However, any such information is called structure content or structure information and each segment is called a structure element.

[0006] On the other hand, the semantic content is information representing human perception and an object-oriented description of a multimedia program. The semantic content may include abstract concepts such as fear, sadness, and happiness; objects such as characters, places, or things appearing in the multimedia program; events which occur in the multimedia program;

and relation connecting the objects and events. For example, in a drama, the actors, the character roles, and events describing a plot would be the semantic content; and each actor, character role, and event would be the semantic elements. If the semantic elements are defined by relations among the elements, a semantic structure would be generated.

[0007] Fig. 2 is an example semantic information for a motion picture such as a drama or a movie. As shown, the story of Pinocchio is represented by a semantic oriented description with characters such as Geppetto and Pinocchio, and relations and roles between Geppetto and Pinocchio.

[0008] The semantic elements and structure information as described above has relations. The relation may be represented by 'a semantic element described in a segment of a selected program' or in reverse, 'a segment including a particular semantic element.' There are other various methods and structures for describing the relations, depending on the way the semantic elements and the structural information are formed. For the examples shown in Figs. 1 and 2, there may be information indicating the segments in which the character Pinocchio appears or there may be information on a segment indicating the objects and events shown in the segment such as Pinocchio.

[0009] Using the above link information, i.e. the relations, users may easily browse a multimedia section or content as desired. Since a multimedia data includes the link information of the structure information and semantic information, users can search for a specific segment of a video or audio to allow a more convenient browsing. That is, users can specifically browse portions of a video rather than watching the whole video, and effectively understand the contents of the whole video in a short period of time by browsing a summary of the video content.

[0010] For such browsing, each semantic element includes information connecting the semantic elements to each corresponding segment, or each segment includes information connecting the segment to each corresponding semantic element. Moreover, both are organized into a data structure including a priority or a key word for each segment or semantic element. Accordingly, a multimedia has video segments and semantic elements which allow browsing by connecting semantic element information based on video segments or by connecting video segments based on semantic elements.

[0011] Furthermore, a video is divided into units of a shot and multimedia browsing may be carried out based upon a shot segmentation and a shot clustering by which each shot is divided and grouped into units of a scene. Namely, using the shot information and scene information, key frames which represent a scene can be set for a video browsing and searching. Therefore, users may selectively browse or search a specific portion of a video stream. For example, a video browsing method has been proposed using a hierarchically decomposed or a scene transition graph describing a temporal rela-

tionship among scenes.

[0012] As described above, to allow a browsing of a specific portion of a video, typical video indexing systems establish a data structure based on each semantic characteristic element. That is, a browsing based on appearances of characters or on event sections is provided. However, in such multimedia browser based on content, a significant amount of overlap occurs to describe each semantic elements of each segments or each segments of semantic elements.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to solve at least the problems and disadvantages of the related art.

[0014] Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a data structure and method for a more efficient browsing of data.

[0015] Another object of the present invention is to provide a data structure and method with reduced overlapping in description of data.

[0016] A still another object of the present invention is to provide a data structure to describe priority and/or weight (priority/weight) information based on semantic elements which is described with link information between structure elements and semantic elements, and a structure for describing the priority/weight information in which qualitative information representing how precisely a structure element describes a semantic element is quantitatively described in the link information.

[0017] A further object of the present invention is to provide a structure for describing priority/weight information based on segments in which information representing priority/weight of semantic elements is differentiated depending on the semantic elements.

[0018] A still further object of the present invention is to provide a structure for defining and describing individual priority/weight of segments and semantic elements of a multimedia in which link information includes both priority/weight information based on the semantic elements and priority/weight information based on the segments to describe individual priority/weight for corresponding elements.

[0019] Additional advantages, objects, and features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained as particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

[0020] To achieve the objects and in accordance with the purposes of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, a multimedia data structure includes link information for connecting a semantic element structure and a segment information structure, where the link information includes priority/weight information

between semantic elements and segments as an attribute, when a multimedia data includes the semantic element structure describing a content of a multimedia and the segment information structure of the multimedia for browsing the multimedia based on content. The priority/weight information may further includes information representing how precise the priority/weight is described.

[0021] In the above embodiment, the priority/weight information may be priority/weight information based on the semantic elements representing the priority/weight of semantic information related to a segment. The priority/weight information may be priority/weight information of structure elements which varies depending on the semantic elements. The priority/weight information may also be priority information based on semantic elements, which represents priority/weight of the segments related to a semantic element or priority/weight information of semantic elements which varies depending on the structure elements.

[0022] Moreover, the priority/weight information may be information based on both the semantic elements and the segments. In such case, the link information including the priority/weight information may have additional information describing connection relationships. Furthermore, the priority information may be described as a segment locator for locating a corresponding segment when link information includes the priority/weight information based on the semantic elements. The priority/weight information may also be described as a semantic element locator for locating a corresponding semantic element when the link information includes the priority/weight information based on the segment.

[0023] Another embodiment of a multimedia data structure according to the present invention includes link information for connecting a semantic element and a segment wherein the link information includes priority/weight information of the structure element which varies depending on the semantic element, when a multimedia data includes the semantic element structure describing the contents of a multimedia and the segment information structure of the multimedia for browsing the multimedia based on the contents.

[0024] A still another embodiment of a multimedia data structure according to the present invention includes link information for connecting a semantic element and a segment wherein the link information includes priority/weight information of the semantic element which varies depending on the structure element, when a multimedia data includes the semantic element structure describing the contents of a multimedia and the segment information structure of the multimedia for browsing the multimedia based on the contents.

[0025] A further embodiment of a multimedia data structure according to the present invention includes link information for connecting a semantic element and a segment wherein the link information includes both priority/weight information of the structure element which

varies depending on the semantic element and priority/weight information of the semantic element which varies depending on the structure element, when a multimedia data includes the semantic element structure describing the contents of a multimedia and the segment information structure of the multimedia for browsing the multimedia based on content.

[0026] A method for browsing a multimedia according to the present invention, includes selecting a semantic element or segment information, selecting a link information of the selected semantic element or segment, and displaying corresponding segment or semantic element information in sequence according to the priority/weight between the corresponding segment element and segment which was obtained by the link information, wherein a multimedia data includes a semantic element structure describing a content of a multimedia and a segment information structure of the multimedia for browsing the multimedia based on content.

[0027] Another method for browsing a multimedia according to the present invention, includes assigning 'semantic element' as a semantic element, selecting 'semantic element n' and reading link information of segments assigned by 'semantic element n,' determining which segments are connected to 'semantic element n' from the link information and reading priority/weight of the connection from the priority information included in the corresponding link information, and displaying the corresponding segments in sequence according to the priority, wherein the priority/weight information based on the semantic element is described by attributes of link information with the corresponding segments.

[0028] A further embodiment of a method for browsing a multimedia according to the present invention includes assigning 'segment n' as a structure element, selecting 'segment n' and reading link information of semantic elements assigned by 'segment n,' determining which semantic elements are connected to 'segment n' from the link information and reading priority/weight of the connection from the priority/weight information included in the corresponding link information, and displaying the corresponding semantic elements in sequence according to the priority/weight, wherein priority/weight information based on the structure element described by attributes of link information with the corresponding semantic elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0029] The invention will be described in detail with reference to the following drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like elements wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view showing a schematic structure of audio and video information in the related art;

Fig. 2 is a view showing an example of semantic information of a multimedia;

Fig. 3 is a view showing a structure for describing

priority/weight information based on a semantic structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a view showing a structure for describing priority/weight information based on segments according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 5 is a view showing a structure for describing priority/weight information based on both a semantic structure and segments according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0030] Reference will now be made in detail to the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0031] If a multimedia is a motion picture, the contents of the multimedia would include structure information of segments as shown in Fig. 1 and semantic elements as shown in Fig. 2. The structure information and the semantic elements have relationships and in the present invention, the relationships are links from semantic elements to segments as shown in Fig. 3 or links from segments to semantic elements as shown in Fig. 4.

[0032] Assuming that a semantic element Pinocchio is set, locators which designate segments corresponding to the semantic element Pinocchio, such as segments or segments with scenes in which Pinocchio appears, can represent a semantic based link information. Similarly, locators which designate semantic elements corresponding to a segment, such as objects or concepts in the segment, can represent a segment based link information. Here, each semantic element may have additional information independent from the semantic based link information. In the above assumption, the additional information may be, for example, the actor who represents Pinocchio or the information describing a character called Pinocchio. On the other hand, the structure information may have information independent from the segment based link information such as how and where each data segment exists.

[0033] Also, each semantic element may be described in several segments. In the example, the character Pinocchio may be defined without redundancy as an object in the semantic structure and described in several portions of a multimedia data. At this time, a 'relation locator' is necessary to link the object Pinocchio of the semantic structure to portions in which the object is described. Such portions may be segments in which Pinocchio appears in a video clip, an audio clip in which the voice of Pinocchio is recorded, photographs of Pinocchio, or character data related to Pinocchio, and can be defined as a structure element.

[0034] In the linked structure element describing semantic elements, the degree of relation between the structure elements and the semantic elements may be different. That is, in some video clips, the back of Pinoc-

chio may appear in the background and in other video clips, the face of Pinocchio may appear in close-up. Such degrees of description or relations will be referred as a priority, weight, or importance in this invention.

[0035] The link information may represent or describe the contents of a motion picture with different focus such as on characters, events, background, or relationship changes among the characters. Moreover, when a multimedia is searched based on content, semantic based links to segments or segment based links to semantic elements would have different priorities/weights depending on a viewpoint of the user or the contents of a motion picture. For example, a section of a motion picture in which the main character Pinocchio appears may be important in understanding the development of a story, but may also be an insignificant detail with respect to the story.

[0036] If the priority/weight or importance of the links between the semantic elements and the segments are represented by an attribute of the link information, the contents of the multimedia may be browsed more efficiently and conveniently using the priority/weight information. Accordingly, in the present invention, the link information between the semantic elements and the segments includes priority/weight information of the links as an attribute. Fig. 3 is an example structure for describing the priority/weight information based on semantic elements and Fig. 4 is an example structure for describing the priority/weight information based on the structure elements.

[0037] The priority/weight information, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, is represented by an attribute of the links between the semantic element and the segment. The degree of the priority/weight is represented by a number.

[0038] Referring to Fig. 3, structure elements 301 include a plurality of segments and link information 303 connects corresponding segments to semantic elements 302 of a multimedia contents, where the link information 303 includes priorities.

[0039] The priority/weight of the link information 303 is represented by numbers written on arrows from the semantic elements 302 to corresponding segments 301. Here, the link information 303 may be represented by connectors, relations or locators. Thus, the priority or weight of the link information 303 may be one of an attribute of the link information 303.

[0040] In the link information 303 of Fig. 3, a semantic element Pinocchio connects to segment 1, segment 6, segment 10, and segment n+2 of the structure elements 301. Here, the priority/weight of the link information 303 to segment 1 is '0.9,' the priority/weight of the link information 303 to segments 6 and 10 are '0.5,' and the priority/weight of the link information 303 to segment n+2 is '0.3.' Assuming that the priority/weight ranges from 0 to 1 and that the priority/weight is based on sections in which Pinocchio appears, the priority/weight of segment 1 would be highest and the priority/weight of segment n+2 would be the lowest. For example, segment 1 may

include sections in which the front of Pinocchio appears in close-up while segment n+2 includes a video clip in which the back of Pinocchio appears in the background for a brief moment.

5 [0041] As described above, by assigning priority/weight information based on the semantic elements as an attribute of the link information between semantic elements and corresponding segments, a more effective browsing and searching of a multimedia is allowed for a user. For example, assume that a user is searching the contents of the story Pinocchio based on the semantic elements for the character Pinocchio. The link information 303 of the segments linked with the semantic element Pinocchio would be used to display the sections 10 in which Pinocchio appears. However, using the priority/weight information of the link information 303, the segments of the structure elements 301 which corresponds to the semantic element Pinocchio can be displayed, in sequence, from the highest to the lowest priority/weight. 15 [0042] Furthermore, more than one semantic element may be described in a segment of the structure information and, depending upon the segment, the priorities/weights of the semantic elements would vary. For example, even though Pinocchio is the most important semantic element in the story of Pinocchio, the appearance of Pinocchio in the background of a scene in which Geppetto is speaking to neighbor is not significant to the story. In such segments, Geppetto would be the more important semantic element. Thus, it would also be helpful 20 for a user to know the relative priorities/weights of semantic elements such as concepts, objects, or events described in each segment of the structure information. Such priority/weight information may be represented by another attribute of the link information.

25 [0043] Fig. 4 shows a second embodiment of a structure for describing the priority/weight information based on the structure elements including structure elements 401 of a plurality of segments connected to semantic elements 402 by link information 403 with priority information. 30 As in the first embodiment, the priority/weight of the link information 403 is represented by numbers written on arrows from the structure elements 401 to corresponding semantic elements 402. Here, the link information 403 may be represented by connectors, relations, or locators. Thus, the priority/weight or weight of the link information 403 may be another one of an attribute of the link information 403.

35 [0044] In the link information 403 of Fig. 4, a segment n+2 connects to semantic elements Pinocchio, the Cricket Pepe, and the concept of adventure. Here, the priority/weight of the link information 403 to Pinocchio is '0.3,' the priority/weight of the link information 403 to the Cricket Pepe is '0.7,' and the priority/weight of the link information 403 to the concept of adventure is '0.8.' 40 Assuming that the priority/weight ranges from 0 to 1, even though Pinocchio may be the most important semantic element of the story, the priority/weight of the concept of adventure is higher than the priority/weight 45

of Pinocchio for the segment n+2.

[0045] Therefore, by assigning priority/weight information based on the structure elements as an attribute of the link information between segments and corresponding semantic elements, a more effective browsing and searching of a multimedia is allowed for a user. For example, assume that a user is searching the contents of the story Pinocchio based on the structure elements by viewing a segment n. The link information 403 of the semantic elements linked with the segment n would be used to display the whole segment. However, using the priority/weight information of the link information 403, the semantic elements can be displayed in order from the highest to the lowest priority/weight, and scenes or shots of the segment describing the corresponding semantic elements may be displayed, in sequence, from the highest to the lowest priority.

[0046] In the above data structures based on either semantic elements of Fig. 3 and structure elements of Fig. 4, the priority/weight information is included as an attribute of the link information between the semantic elements and the structure elements, wherein the link information describes the priority/weight of either structure elements based on the semantic elements or semantic elements based on the structure elements. Fig. 5 shows a third embodiment of a structure for describing the priority/weight based on both the semantic elements and based on the segments, where the priority/weight is an attribute of the link information.

[0047] Referring to Fig. 5, a link ID represents identifications of the link information between segments and semantic elements, wherein link Li connects segment Sj with semantic element Mk. For each link Li, the priority/weight information includes both priority/weight of corresponding segment Sj based on semantic element Mk, i.e. semantic based importance, and priority/weight of corresponding semantic element Mk based on segment Sj, i.e. segment based importance.

[0048] The value which represents the priority/weight may be set to a fixed range of integers or a real numbers, or integers or real numbers without a fixed range. In the preferred embodiment, the value of the priority is fixed between '0' and '1.' Accordingly, if there is no change in the stored segments, the assigned values of the priority/weight information may be normalized and controlled to a number between '0' and '1,' regardless of the range of priority/weight values assigned. Also, an authorized user (or a manager) may subjectively assign the priority/weight information, which may be modified by further study or input.

[0049] However, in a system in which the priority/weight values are assigned without a fixed range or if there is a continuous change in the stored data, normalization cannot be achieved or the priority/weight values must be normalized each time there is a change in the data. In such case, one method to set the priority/weight information, described by a real number, to a value between '0' and '1' is as follows.

[0050] For an image, the priority/weight value may be set by a ratio l_p which is the amount of a semantic element that occupies an image [$l_p = \text{pixel number of semantic image} / \text{total image pixel number}$]. For a video clip,

5 the priority/weight value may be set by a temporal ratio V_p which is the length of a section in which a semantic element appears [$V_p = l_p \times (\text{time describing semantic element} / \text{total segment time})$]. For an audio, the priority/

10 weight value may be set by a ratio A_p , a combination of the degree of sound pressure of a semantic element and the length of time in which the sound is heard [$A_p = (\text{sound pressure of semantic element} / \text{total sound pressure}) \times (\text{time of sound pressure of semantic element} / \text{segment time})$]. Thus, the priority/weight information

15 can automatically be set to a value between '0' and '1.'

[0051] As described above, when the priority/weight is represented by an attribute of the link information, the efficiency of the browsing and storage are increased. First, the semantic elements need only be stored once

20 in the semantic structure, such that it is not necessary to redundantly store the semantic elements. Second, when the semantic information is separated from the structure information, the link information exists regardless of the priority/weight information. Thus, the priority/

25 weight information may be added to the link information as attributes using one or two real numbers, thereby reducing the size of data for describing the priority/weight information.

[0052] Furthermore, when a user wishes to find a video clip related to a specific semantic element during a search, a search engine may obtain the semantic element from the semantic structure and the link information corresponding to the semantic element from the link information. The search engine then delivers segments

35 designated by the obtained link information together with the priority/weight information to the user. Therefore, the user may view segments according to the priority/weight information which is quantitatively represented. Similarly, when a user wishes to find information

40 in a specific segment during a search, related semantic elements described in the segment may be obtained using the link information corresponding to the segment, thereby allowing the user to view the semantic elements related to the segment.

[0053] In the present invention, when a multimedia data has link information between semantic elements and structure elements for search of multimedia based on content, the link information includes priority/weight information as an attribute such that the efficiency of the search, storage, and browsing of the multimedia are increased. Moreover, the priority/weight information may automatically be extracted and represented, case by case, such that indexing of the multimedia may be effectively performed.

[0054] The foregoing embodiments are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention. The present teachings can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the

present invention is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Claims

1. A multimedia data structure comprising:
 a structure information of a plurality of segments;
 a semantic information of a plurality of semantic elements;
 a link information which connects at least one segment to corresponding at least one semantic element, wherein said link information includes, as an attribute, one of at least a priority or weight information between each connected at least one segment and at least one semantic element.
5
2. A multimedia data structure of claim 1, wherein the link information is a link from a first semantic element to each segment which describes the first semantic element.
10
3. A multimedia data structure of claim 2, wherein the priority or weight information is based on the first semantic element and indicates the importance of the first semantic element in each of the linked segments.
15
4. A multimedia data structure of claim 1, wherein the link information is a link from a first segment to each semantic element which are described in the first segment.
20
5. A multimedia data structure of claim 4, wherein the priority or weight information is based on the first segment and indicates the importance of each linked semantic element in the first segment.
25
6. A multimedia data structure of claim 1, wherein the link information includes semantic based importance of a segment and segment based importance of a semantic element between the connected at least one segment and at least one semantic element.
30
7. A multimedia data structure of claim 1, wherein the link information is represented by one of connectors, relations, or locators.
35
8. A multimedia data structure of claim 1, wherein the priority or weight information is a value ranging from 0 to 1, where the value of 1 has the most importance.
40
9. A multimedia data structure of claim 8, wherein setting one of a priority or a weight value for an image by a ratio which is an amount of a semantic element that occupies the image; setting a corresponding one of a priority or weight value for a video clip by a temporal ratio which is the length of a section in which a semantic element appears in a segment; and setting a corresponding one of a priority or weight value for an audio by a ratio which is a combination of the degree of sound due to a semantic element and the length of time in which the sound is heard during a segment.
45
10. A system for browsing multimedia comprising:
 receiving a user selection of either a semantic element from semantic information or a segment from structure information;
 obtaining link information corresponding to a selected semantic element or segment, wherein the link information includes at least one of a priority or weight information as an attribute of the link information; and
 displaying segments linked with a selected semantic element in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a semantic element is selected for browsing based on semantic elements; and displaying sections which describes semantic elements linked with a selected segment in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a segment is selected for browsing based on segments.
50
11. A system of claim 10, wherein the link information connects a selected segment to corresponding at least one semantic element if a segment is selected, and wherein the link information connects a selected semantic element to corresponding at least one segment if a semantic element is selected.
55
12. A system of claim 10, wherein the link information is a link from a first semantic element to each segment which describes the first semantic element, if a first semantic element is selected.
60
13. A system of claim 12, wherein the priority or weight information is based on the first semantic element and indicates the importance of the first semantic element in each of the linked segments.
65
14. A system of claim 10, wherein the link information is a link from a first segment to each semantic element which are described in the first segment, if a first segment is selected.
70
15. A system of claim 14, wherein the priority or weight information is based on the first segment and indi-

- cates the importance of each linked semantic element in the first segment.
16. A system of claim 10, wherein the link information is represented by one of connectors, relations, or locators. 5
17. A system of claim 10, wherein the priority or weight information is a value ranging from 0 to 1, where the value of 1 has the most importance. 10
18. A method of displaying results of multimedia browsing comprising:

- storing a structure information of a plurality of segments, and a semantic information of a plurality of semantic elements; 15
storing link information which links at least one segment to corresponding at least one semantic element, wherein said link information includes, as an attribute, at least one or a priority information or weight information between the connected at least one segment and at least one semantic element; 20
obtaining link information corresponding to a semantic element or a segment, selected by a user for browsing; and 25
displaying segments linked with a selected semantic element in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a semantic element is selected for browsing based on semantic elements; and 30
displaying sections which describes semantic elements linked with a selected segment in sequence according to the priority or weight information using the link information, if a segment is selected for browsing based on segments. 35
19. A method of claim 18, wherein the priority or weight information of the link information includes semantic based importance of a segment and segment based importance of a semantic element between the connected at least one segment and at least one semantic element. 40
20. A method of claim 18, wherein the link information is represented by one of connectors, relations, or locators. 45

FIG.1
Related Art

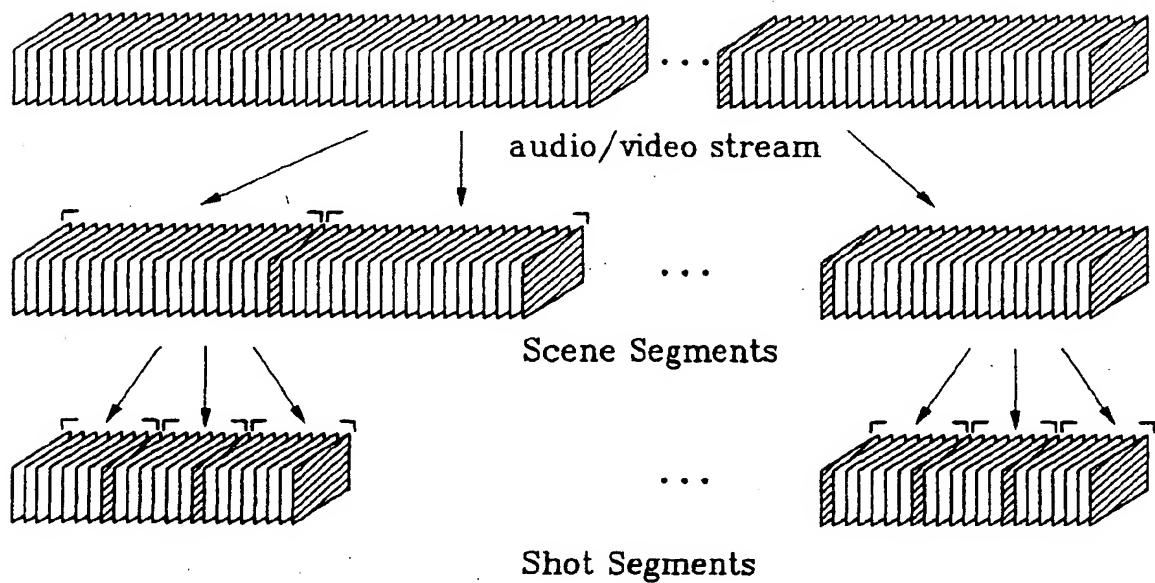


FIG.2
Related Art

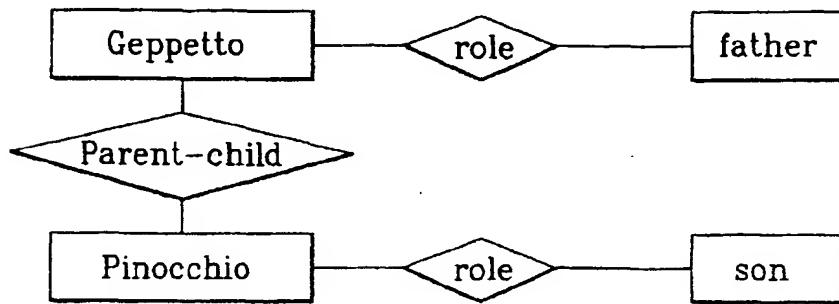


FIG.3

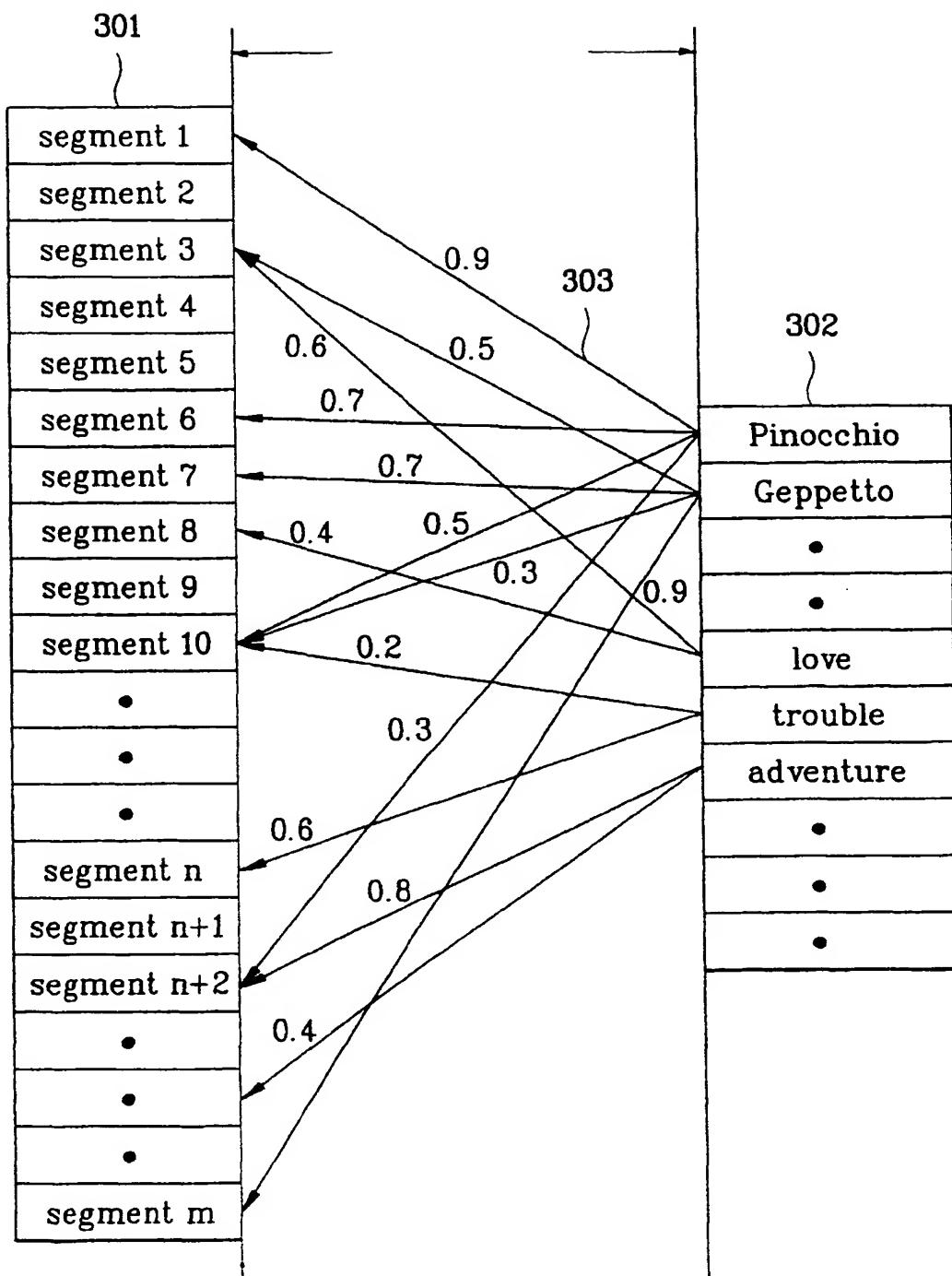


FIG. 4

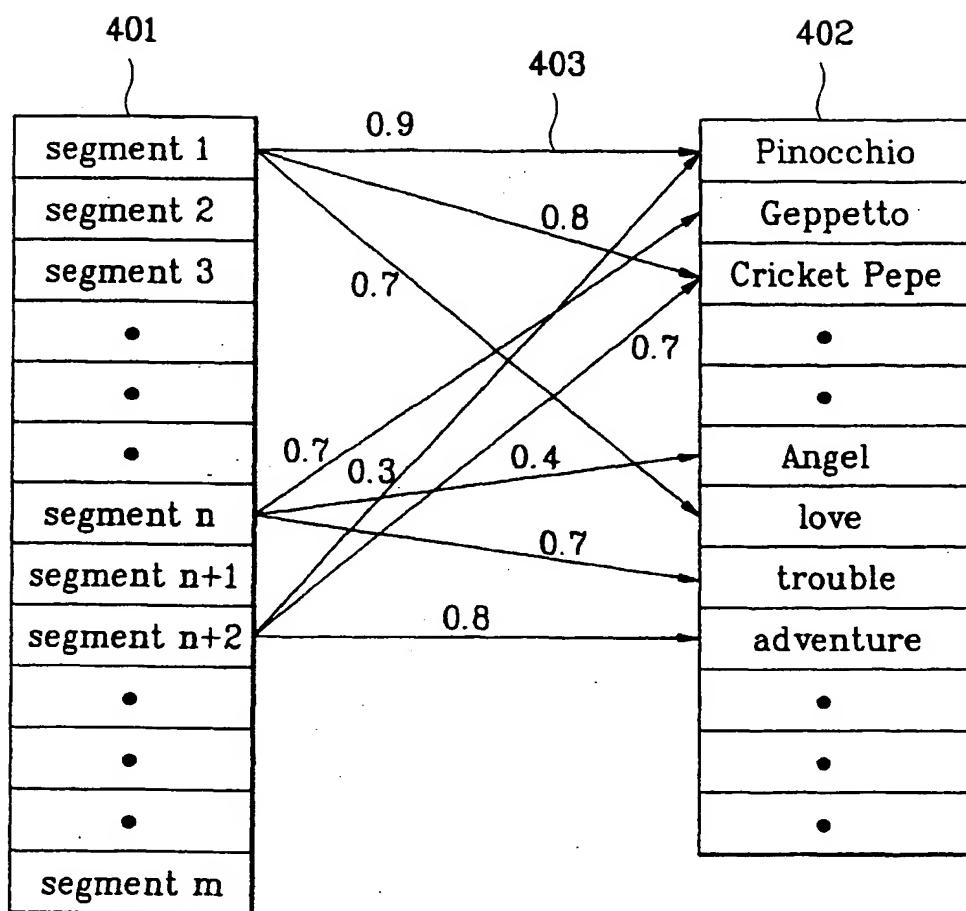


FIG.5

connector ID	segment locator	semantic element locator	semantic based importance	segment based importance
L1	S1	M1	0.97	0.3
L2	S1	M2	0.7	0.8
L3	S1	M3	0.5	0.3
L4	S1	M4	0.4	0.9
L5	S2	M1	0.2	0.7
L6	S2	M2	0.5	0.2
L7	S3	M2	0.9	0.5
L8	S3	M3	0.2	0.4
L9	S4	M4	0.8	0.6
...
L _i	S _j	M _k

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets

(11)



EP 1 113 371 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
06.05.2004 Bulletin 2004/19

(51) Int Cl. 7: G06F 17/30

(43) Date of publication A2:
04.07.2001 Bulletin 2001/27

(21) Application number: 00311272.9

(22) Date of filing: 15.12.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 30.12.1999 KR 9965853

(71) Applicant: **LG ELECTRONICS INC.**
Seoul (KR)

(72) Inventors:

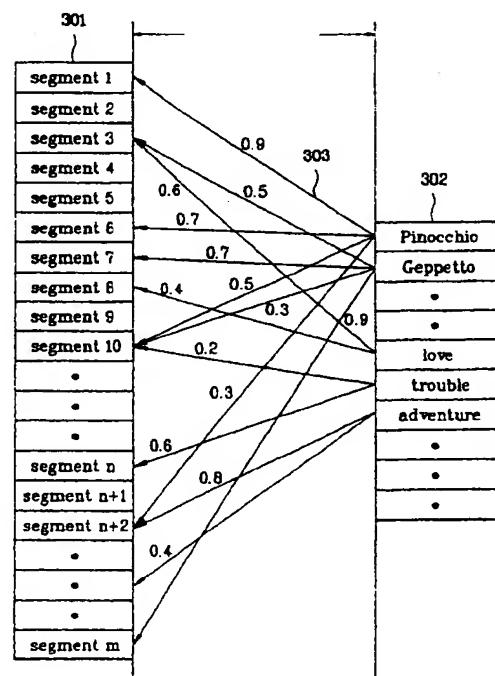
- **Yoon, Kyoung Ro**
Kangnam-gu, Seoul (KR)

- **Lee, Jin Soo**
Songpa-gu, Seoul (KR)
- **Jun, Sung Bae**
Kumchon-gu, Seoul (KR)

(74) Representative:
McLeish, Nicholas Alistair Maxwell et al
Boulton Wade Tenant
Verulam Gardens
70 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8BT (GB)

(54) Multimedia structure and method for browsing multimedia with defined priority of multimedia segments and semantic elements

(57) A more efficient data structure and method for browsing a multimedia is disclosed. In the present invention, link information between segments and semantic elements of a multimedia data structure is generated with minimal use of storage. Also, priority or weight of segments is represented based on semantic elements and priority or weight of semantic elements is represented based on segments to allow a search of multimedia based on content. The priority or weight information is represented as an attribute of the link information to increase the efficiency of the storage and a method of automatically extracting the priority or weight information is disclosed.

FIG.3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 1272

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
X	<p>YONG RUI ET AL: "Efficient access to video content in a unified framework", MULTIMEDIA COMPUTING AND SYSTEMS, 1999. IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FLORENCE, ITALY 7-11 JUNE 1999, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, PAGE(S) 735-740 XP010519479 ISBN: 0-7695-0253-9</p> <p>* abstract * * page 737, left-hand column, line 35 - page 737, right-hand column, line 7; figures 2,3 *</p> <p>* page 738, left-hand column, line 6 - line 20 * * page 738, right-hand column, line 33 - page 739, left-hand column, line 5; figure 5 * * page 739, left-hand column, line 22 - page 739, right-hand column, line 5 *</p> <p>---</p>	1-8, 10-20	G06F17/30
Y		9	
Y	<p>US 5 903 892 A (ALI ADNAN ET AL) 11 May 1999 (1999-05-11)</p> <p>* column 9, line 55 - line 65 * * column 15, line 22 - line 32 * * column 21, line 45 - line 55 *</p> <p>---</p>	9	<small>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)</small> G06F
A	<p>EP 0 555 028 A (IBM) 11 August 1993 (1993-08-11)</p> <p>* abstract * * column 4, line 54 - column 5, line 18; figure 1 * * column 6, line 10 - line 35; figure 3 * * column 8, line 8 - line 20; figure 6 *</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-20	
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	12 March 2004	Moon, T	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-european disclosure P : intermediate document			



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 1272

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT									
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)						
A	<p>HAITAO JIANG ET AL: "VideoText database systems", MULTIMEDIA COMPUTING AND SYSTEMS '97. PROCEEDINGS., IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA 3-6 JUNE 1997, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, PAGE(S) 344-351 XP010239207</p> <p>ISBN: 0-8186-7819-4</p> <p>* page 346, right-hand column, line 26 - page 347, left-hand column, line 32 *</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20							
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)									
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BERLIN</td> <td>12 March 2004</td> <td>Moon, T</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	BERLIN	12 March 2004	Moon, T
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
BERLIN	12 March 2004	Moon, T							
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS									
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p>		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>							

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 31 1272

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
 The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
 The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information

12-03-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5903892	A	11-05-1999	US	6282549 B1	28-08-2001
			US	6374260 B1	16-04-2002
			US	2001014891 A1	16-08-2001
			US	5983176 A	09-11-1999
<hr/>					
EP 0555028	A	11-08-1993	JP	5282379 A	29-10-1993
			EP	0555028 A2	11-08-1993
<hr/>					